

Survive and advance, Warriors headed to quarters



North Douglas celebrates after winning the fifth set 17-15 against Griswold last Saturday.

North Douglas volleyball guts out two wins to move on

By Zach Silva
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It's not always easy being the number one seed.

In two playoff games this week, the top seed in 1A volleyball, North Douglas, defeated Lowell 3-1 and just scraped by Griswold in a five set thriller to advance to the quarterfinals.

Last Wednesday, the Warriors hosted Lowell in the first round of the playoffs. While ranked number one, because North Douglas did not win their league tournament, they did not get a first-round bye.

In the first set, it was North

Douglas up 11-10 when head coach Anne Campbell, from the sideline, told the team "we need a run." The Warriors then rattled off 11 straight points and took the set 25-11.

In the second set, the Warriors were up 18-9 but after multiple errors by North Douglas, Lowell put together a 11-3 run to get within a point. North Douglas finished off the set to get the 25-21 victory but buoyed by their play in the second set, the Devils were able to put together a third set victory at 25-22.

"In the third set we kind of went out, we said we were going to execute and we went out there and I think we overlooked what was really going to happen and we started making mental errors," said North Douglas hitter Ariana Helgren who finished the match with a team-high 17 kills. "Then we kind of figured it out like these are easy things to fix and just cleaned up our mental errors. We didn't pull it out but in the fourth game we figured it out."

It was all Warriors in the fourth game as they showed why they are the number one team in the state and rolled to a 25-7 victory to take the match.

"I feel really confident because having the kind of mistakes we had in today's game kind of showed us that we're in the state playoffs now, so we don't have a lot of room for those little mental errors," said Helgren.

Campbell noted that the team can build off what they did in Wednesday's match.

"We're very inexperienced and we've played like a team that has experience but there are

times when that inexperience comes out and there's a little bit of a slip there and whether hopefully we don't let it go long enough that we dig a hole that we can't get out of," she said.

The win set them up to face sixteenth ranked Griswold at home in the second round.

It was the Grizzlies that came out strong in the opening set as they were able to counter each North Douglas attack and they went up 11-4. But as they have done all year, the Warriors countered and worked their way back. This time they worked through North Douglas' Nicki Derrick's serve. Derrick ended the match with six aces and the Grizzlies could not set up their offense when she was on the attack. A 15-2 run put the Warriors up and they finished the set with a 25-20 victory.

The Warriors again looked on their best form in the second set as they took the game 25-14 to be a set away from heading to Redmond for the quarterfinals.

But before North Douglas could seal the deal, the Grizzlies bounced back. In the third set, the Grizzlies took the game 25-20. And in the fourth set they opened up a 13-4 lead and looked to cruise to a fifth set until it was the Warriors who fought back. Powered by Helgren and Abby Whipple, the Warriors tied the game up at 18.

Helgren finished with 27 kills and 30 digs and Whipple added 17 kills and 24 digs.

Griswold responded to the rally and with the assistance of a service error and spikes into the net, the Grizzlies won the set 27-25 to set up a fifth and final set.

With five quick Helgren kills the Warriors were up 10-4 in the fifth set. The Grizzlies came back and the match was tied at 14. Each team then had service errors and then the Warriors were able to rally to a 17-15 win to take the match.

"I'm proud of the way that they battled because we really had... some ups and downs and you know they really battled back and they had this kind of late game, late set battle in the fourth set and we lost it. So when Griswold got right back into the game in the fifth, I was a little bit worried," said Campbell.

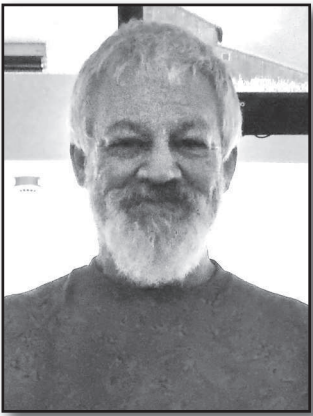
"A match like this better prepares us to play at state... Typically a number one seed has an easy road in. But when you play a team from the East you never know. They're a different kind of volleyball over there, you don't see them during the season and the rankings are skewed a lot of times," she said.

With the victory, the Warriors will now head to the quarterfinals.

"I'm just thrilled because like I feel like a lot of people didn't really think you know like wow they lost a bunch of seniors, they're not going to make it. And there was definitely a lot of vibes going there. And we just came out today wanting to prove everyone wrong. I mean, it took awhile but we still proved them wrong and I couldn't be more proud of my team.

North Douglas will face Joseph in their next match on Friday at 1:15 p.m. North Douglas lost to Joseph 2-1 in August at the 1A Season Preview tournament.

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Elks win big, head to round one ready



The Elkton defense shuts down Chiloquin on their way to a 60-0 win last Friday.

Elkton football extends winning streak to five as they beat Chiloquin

By Zach Silva
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In a home league-playoff game last Friday, it was Elkton that continued their winning ways as they beat Chiloquin 60-0 to move on to round one of the 1A state playoffs.

"They are way bigger than us so I was really concerned about whether or not we could handle

that size and physicality," said Elkton head coach Bill Shaw. "And the kids responded really well. They came out and played hard, executed well and did some really good things."

The size was apparent from the start as Chiloquin's quarterback Den Herrera, listed at 6'2 210 pounds, and running back Daniel Jones, listed at 6'2 235 pounds, loomed over Elkton.

But despite the size advantage, it was all Elkton from the get go.

In just four plays, the Elks found the end zone with a 35-yard rushing touchdown from Spencer Moore. Then after a fumble on Chiloquin's first play from scrimmage, Moore again scored this time from four yards

out. On the next drive, Chiloquin's Herrera was intercepted by Jase Billman who returned the interception to the end zone for a score. An Austin Luzier 40 yard rush on the next drive put the Elks up 24-0 after one quarter.

"The defense was solid from the start. Forced a fumble, kind of got things rolling our way early. But I was really happy with our offensive execution today. No turnovers, we didn't turn it over a bunch. We ran some things kind of outside the box," said Shaw.

The second quarter saw a continued level of dominance for the Elks. The defense forced another fumble and another interception in the quarter which

brought their halftime total to four. Additionally they held Chiloquin to 29 yards of offense.

On the offensive side, all systems were firing. Moore ran for another touchdown and Luzier passed for three touchdowns including a trick play that saw two handoffs and a pitch back to Luzier who found an open Jayden Woody downfield. At the half Elkton was up 54-0.

"They're yelling to our sideline that we're running up the score, but guess what, this is a playoff game," said assistant coach Mike Hughes at halftime.

In the second half, Elkton put their backups in on the first drive that stalled and their starters were in after that.

"I get the impression that [Chiloquin was] disappointed that they felt like we might have run it up a bit. But I tried to put my littles in but I thought that their guy 28 was going to kill my poor little freshman quarterback," said Shaw.

With the running clock winding down, the Elks found the end zone once in the second half when they ran the same trick play as they did earlier in game.

"The flea flicker was supposed to be a jab play to my two back in the middle of the line but the kids got a little creative on their own," said Shaw.

With the victory, Elkton moved up to number eight in the rankings and will now be hosting Wallowa at 1:00 p.m. next Friday.



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